



Literacy KS 3

Entrances and Security

Read the following extract describing a character entering a building for the first time.

The sun was making a half hearted effort to push a ray or two through the clouds. I was wearing a suit which shouted I am here on business. It was a statement I felt I would need to make if the people in this building were going to listen to me. I felt confident despite the fact that my shoes were new and uncomfortable. They made a disconcerting squeak as I climbed the steps to the imposing heavy wooden door. The brass nameplate gleamed spitefully at me. I straightened my tie, its green and orange swirls now seemed woefully inappropriate to meet Dursley, Dursley and Morbiton [Solicitors]. I ran my fingers through my hair, it was over gelled and as I reached forward to open the door my hand skidded ineffectively off the door handle. I hastily wiped my hand down my trousers and tried to enter again.

I found myself in a small entrance hall with a very high ceiling. It was very gloomy and smelled of stale cigar smoke. The confidence I had felt began to sweep away. The door made a loud click as I closed it, heightening the silence which followed. The deep red carpet enveloped my shoes but at least it hid the embarrassing squeak as I moved towards a dark oak reception desk. The receptionist was a rather formidable elderly lady who took my details and asked me to wait. She indicated in the direction of a large brown leather sofa. I sat down and took a closer look at my surroundings. Two doors led from the hall which made me think that perhaps the Dursleys shared an office. The walls were covered with portraits in heavy gold frames making the space even more claustrophobic. The light was poor and came from a single chandelier giving an antiquated feel to the hall. However, the modern world had entered the building in the form of the ominous red blinking of a security camera behind the reception desk.

Task

1. Chose one of the buildings from Worksheet 1.

Look at the details you noted down for the building. They should show a positive view of the entrance. How is this different from the extract you have just read?

2. Write two paragraphs using the text above as a model.

Write in the first person.

The first paragraph should give some details of the character entering the building and the impression the character has of the building.

In the second paragraph describe the interior of the building and the sights, sounds and feelings the character experiences.